INSIDE: PSL & NSW STATE LEAGUE REVIEWS

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SLICKERS PSL CHAMPS!

In a dramatic photo-finish, the Sydney City "Slickers" won the 1980 Philips League championship — their second in four years.

Under new coach Eddie Thomson and playing at the "new" Sydney Athletic Field, the Slickers truly worked hard for their success.

Some would argue that Heidelberg have more sheer "class", others would claim that Marconi have more individual brilliance. Perhaps.

But Sydney City have been the most consistent team not just this year but since 1977 — and consistency wins titles.

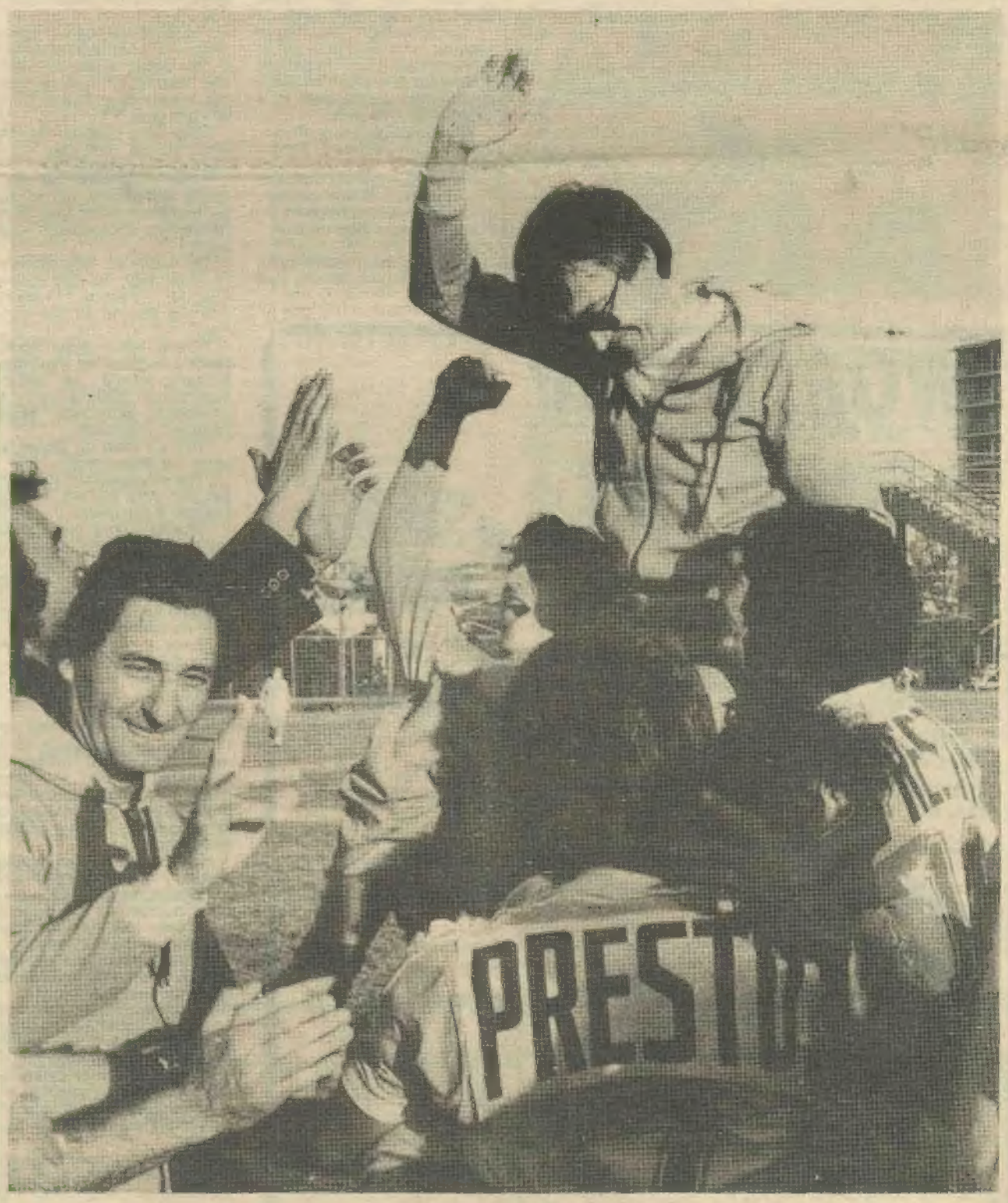
The Slickers, sponsored and financed by the affluent Hakoah club at Bondi, are also a model of organisational and financial efficiency in the PSL — easily surpassing all others including Newcastle, so often held up as the paragons of all imitable virtues.

From chairman Frank Lowy and his deputy Andrew Lederer through director-cum-adviser Harry Lakmaker, secretary David Childs down to a busy committee, auxiliaries, a professional (though part-time) coaching staff, the clubs infrastructure is neatly arranged.

Although the team's crowd support did increase this season, it's still extremely sad that this successful club can't cause more waves among the soccer fans.

It is, however, on the right track and maybe in a year or two the city of Sydney will respond to the constant promotional efforts devised by the Slickers.

• **How the title was won — see page 5.**



Roman emperors once returned from victorious campaigns like this...Eddie Thomson, the Sydney City coach, humbly acknowledges the adulation of players, officials and fans after clinching the title. At left the Slickers' goalkeeper-coach, Eddie Katnic. Under Thomson's arm — Tony Pezzano.

Marconi's pilgrimage

Marconi have to continue their pilgrimage to Melbourne when they start off their quest for glory in the Philips League Top Four series on October 12.

They will play South Melbourne at Middle Park, at 3pm — with the loser bowing out for the year.

Next Saturday night Marconi will have to play Heidelberg in the Philips Cup final, also in Melbourne.

Sydney City will play Heidelberg in the Top Four at the Sydney Athletic Field at 3pm, on Sunday, October 12.

The winner of this clash will move into the Grand Final while the loser meets, a week later, the survivor of the South Melbourne — Marconi game.

The venue of that will be decided by draw later.

GIANTS IN CUP FINAL

The PSL title is gone — Plum No. 2 is coming up on Saturday when Heidelberg and Marconi meet in the Philips Cup final in Melbourne.

It's a pity that we have yet to find a suitable formula to stage these finals without giving one team the huge home ground advantage.

So far in each year the team playing at home won the final — will it be the same again?

Heidelberg, once again the bridesmaids in the PSL, carry the hopes of the whole of Victoria, a State which has yet to win a major honor in the PSL.

Marconi, on the other hand, are anxious to make up for their disappointment in the League which, in March, most pundits had given to them on credit.

Only recently the two teams played a thrilling 3-3 draw in Melbourne, after Marconi had led 3-1.

They are not likely to surrender such a handy lead again — if they get the chance.

• **Full Philips Cup chart — see page 3.**

NSW IN FOCUS

NORTH SYDNEY'S SPLENDID DEBUT

— By Paul James —

North Sydney surprised a lot of critics this season by finishing in a respectable middle of the table position above more fancied teams like Sutherland, Arncliffe and pre-season hot-tips Bankstown.

The northern lads had won promotion from First Division and immediately the pundits predicted a struggle.

"I think we proved a lot of people wrong," said club secretary Archie Blue, ex-Australian star.

"By all accounts we've had a successful year.

"Although we finished eighth, if you examine the table there are three teams above us separated by one point.

"For a first stab at the State League I think we've done pretty well," he said.

Archie said he felt the downfall of the side this year was a string of narrow losses early in the season.

"While we were still a little fresh to the competition we got a few unlucky defeats.

"If we'd been able to pick up say four or five points then, we could have been serious Top Four challengers," he said.

He added the season had blooded the youngsters in the side and had given them an extra insight into more competitive soccer.

"Next season I think it wouldn't be too unrealistic to say that North Sydney will challenge for title honours," Archie said.

"We want to strengthen the squad and add perhaps another midfielder and a striker.

"Experience is what we'll probably go for, though age won't be the only prerequisite.

"In any case, we may have to bolster the squad as it is likely we could lose some players.

"We've had approaches for a couple of the lads from PSL clubs, and we are not about to stand in anyone's way by putting unreasonable transfer figures on them," he said.

Archie said the club had a few ventures in the pipeline.

"Perhaps the most important is a proposed sponsorship deal worth $20,000 a year to us.

"At present it looks like it may only be for one year, but we're trying to get an option for two more years on top of that, both at the same rate," he said.

"Our other project is to field three Federation teams next year in the Under 14, 15 and 16 age groups.

"We have had some approaches from junior associations to merge and enter teams but we aren't interested in any mergers — we plan to do it ourselves," he said.

"This year has really tested the club's organisational abilities but I think I can say we've come through fairly well.

"We have had to raise money through dances, social events and other means but they have all been successes and have kept the team on the field each week," he said.

North Sydney doesn't have a social club and Archie said this was another reason why the sponsorship was being so eagerly sought.

"We are also hoping to use part of the money to get extra coaches for the youth teams.

"Phil Bottalico and I will still be in charge of the State League teams, but we will need help for the youngsters," Archie said.

Archie said he felt the most consistent player in first grade was Greg Mattheson.

"He was our all-rounder for the year and played wherever we needed him.

"Even when he wasn't playing well he wasn't one to hide — he'd just get stuck in and try and play himself out of his bad patches.

"I think we also had some other fine players — in fact the whole team played well throughout.

"But to name some others I think Jim Bottalico and Jay O'Rourke were outstanding.

"Jay in particular had a fine season, considering we converted him from a winger to a defender."

Archie said the club was hoping the team would basically remain unchanged for next season.

"If we can keep a hard core of the players together, I'm sure we'll give the State League an even bigger shake than we gave it this year," he said.

MONARO'S LATE RUN

Inter Monaro faced up to the 1980 season prepared for a difficult year.

Even the most loyal supporters feared for the worst when no less than six regular first grade players had left the club or retired from playing.

Apart from the much publicised departure of Sebastian Giampaolo and Walter Valeri, Tony Morsello returned to Sydney to play for Leichhardt, Laurie Palec retired, Chris O'Neil returned home and Alan Bourke stopped playing after he and the club couldn't come to terms.

Right away half of the team — and without doubt most of its experience and heart — was gone.

Monaro started badly and for a long time looked like possible relegation candidates, then came good.

"We are extremely happy with the way the side has performed this year," club secretary Tony Reale said.

"Considering we were worried for a long time about the possibility of relegation, to find ourselves in fifth place at the end of the year is a great relief," he said.

The club's publicity officer, Joe Chiera, echoed Tony's sentiments.

"We had a few set-backs in the first part of the season, just when we had hoped a little luck would tide us over," he said.

"But the team really came to the fore in the second half of the year.

Bobby Noble, Monaro

"From the 13 games we lost only three — and as a result we finished high up the ladder," he said.

Both men placed much of the credit on the efforts of coach Frank Maccarone.

"He has been with the first team for four years now," Tony said.

"In the three years of State League soccer he has earned a fifth place, a second place and another fifth place, plus our magnificent Grand Final win last year."

They both said the players who stayed with the club were also outstanding.

"They may have had their faults technically, but in the second half of the year they gelled into a fine team," Joe said.

The future for Inter Monaro is definitely in the State League, despite rumors floating around to the contrary.

"There have been some reports suggesting that Inter Monaro would be better suited to playing in the proposed Southern NSW League," Tony said.

"But we have no desire to leave the State League.

"The competition there is second only to the Philips League in Australia.

"It would be a major step backwards if we joined a southern league.

"We are used to a high standard of competition and it would be of little benefit to us if we joined a weaker one.

"Even if we won it consistently, it would mean little as we would know it wasn't the best we were capable of playing in," he said.

Tony said Monaro had acted only as observers at a meeting of the proposed southern league and had given firm indications then that they weren't interested in leaving the NSW Federation.

He said the team would probably remain largely unchanged from this year.

"A number of the players have only run one of their two-year contracts," he said.

"This gives us the chance to keep the side intact and ready for next year."

He hinted that the club might go into the transfer market in a small way again next season.

"We bought very carefully this season and it paid off.

"You don't always have to go for big names to get big value.

"Ally Link costs us very little yet he finished as the club's top scorer and was one of our best players.

"Whatever the lineup, you can be certain Monaro will be challenging for honors again next year," Tony Said.

• Series on NSW State League teams continued next week.

STATE LEAGUE SEMIFINALS

3rd grade:
Bankstown v Kuringai 2-1

2nd Grade:
Avala v Sutherland 3-4

1st Grade:
Auburn v Cant'M'ville *2-2

DIVISION 1

1st Grade:
Marconi v St.George *0-0
Polonia v Wollongong 1-4

2nd Grade:
Syd.City v Leichhardt *0-0

3rd Grade:
St.George v Belmore 4-1
Syd.City v Blackt.City 2-1

*** After extra time.**

AROK IS OK

Frank Arok will return by December 1 to take over as fulltime manager-coach-supremo of St.George.

He confirmed his acceptance of the club's offer to manager Les Bordacs last weekend.

Arok, president of the Yugoslav Coaches' Federation, was the successful manager of the Saints in 1969-70 and again in 1972.

Recently he spent six weeks in Sydney, at the club's invitation, to advise them on possible ways of rebuilding the team and the management.

Arok will arrive alone as his wife's father is seriously ill in Yugoslavia and she intends staying with him for a while.

MUNIZ WINS S.A. AWARD

Ace Adelaide City midfielder Agenor Muniz has won "The Advertiser" $1,000 Golden Boots award as the best SA player in the Philips League for 1980.

The ex-Australian international took the award by two points from West Adelaide and Socceroo squad goalkeeper Martyn Crook.

LEADERS: A. Muniz (City) 32; M. Crook (West) 30; D. Jones (City), I. McGregor (West) 21; Manecas (West) 18; J. Kosmina (West) 17; G. Honeyman (West), S. Topaz (West) 14; B. Nyskohus (City) 13; J. Nyskohus (City) 12; J. Perin (City), B. Russell (City), S. Melta (City), C. Barnes (City) 11; E. Carruthers (West), V. Bozanic (West) 10.

SOCCER WORLD

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AMPOL

NSW Replays
Wednesday, October 1

Gr.2: Sydney City v Leichhardt...6.30pm
Gr.1: Marconi v St.George...8.15pm
(Both at St.George stadium)

Auburn v Canterbury State League replay — watch the daily newspapers.

NSW Finals:
Monday, October 6

Gr.3: St.George v Sydney City...11am
Gr.2: Sydney City or Leichhardt v St.George...1pm
Gr.1: Marconi or St.George v Wollongong...3pm
(All at St.George Stadium)

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ALL THE GOALS OF 1980

SYDNEY CITY:

Boden	13
Barnes	10
Stevenson	8
Trenter	6
Smith	4
J. Spanos	3
Watson	3
Borges	1
Gomez	1
Mullen	1
Souness	1

HEIDELBERG:

Cole	21
Paton	15
Campbell	6
Bozikas	5
Yzendoorn	4
Rooney	3
Selemidis	1

SOUTH MELBOURNE:

Buljevic	10
Evans	8
Campbell	6
Cummings	5
Rogers	3
Christopoulos	3
V. Bannon	2
Wright	2
Xanthopoulos	2
Kakantonis	1

MARCONI:

Jankovics	16
Krncevic	13
Sharne	8
Byrne	7
Vieri	3
Mariani	2
Lindsay	1
Raskopoulos	1

NEWCASTLE:

Heys	8
Jones	4
McClelland	3
Senkalski	3
Drinkwater	2
Trenter	2
Tredinnick	2
Burrows	1
Cowburn	1
Curran	1
Deakin	1
Kamasz	1
Mason	1

ADELAIDE CITY:

J. Nyskohus	12
Barnes	9
Fashanu	3
Mitchell	3
Dods	2
Jones	2
Melta	2
Northcote	2
Deans	1
Muir	1
Muniz	1

BRISBANE LIONS:

Millman	7
McGregor	3
Ontong	3
Lindsay	2
Niven	2
Spearritt	2
Verwelj	2
Hermiston	1
Hogg	1
Hughes	1
McNaughton	1
Reid	1
Wright	1

LEICHHARDT:

O'Connor	10
Pirie	4
Harding	3
Samuels	3
Coyne	2
Bradley	1
McAusland	1
McKie	1
Morsello	1

FOOTSCRAY:

Vasic	6
Lujic	5
Picioane	4
Illoski	3
Ollerton	3
Belic	2
Kondarios	2
Cozzella	1
Jovanovic	1
Hazabent	1
Petrou	1

BLACKTOWN:

Wilkinson	9
Hunter	6
O'Donnell	4
Fisher	2
Hormazabal	2
Izatt	2
Pollard	2
Selvage	2
Charlton	1
Harding	1
Ortega	1
Pointer	1

CANBERRA:

Byrne	7
Giampaolo	7
Valeri	7
J. O'Shea	4
McLaren	3
Brennan	1
Cole	1
R. O'Shea	1
Stark	1

BRISBANE CITY:

Kelso	9
Ratcliffe	4
Palinkas	3
Conner	2
Brusasco	2
Gaffney	2
McCluskey	2
Campbell	1
Caldwell	1
Hamilton	1
Low	1
Potter	1

WEST ADELAIDE:

Manecas	6
Kosmina	5
Honeyman	3
Atsalas	1
Bozanic	1
Forde	1
McGachey	1
Key	1
Norris	1
Koulianos	1
Topaz	1
Tymszyczyn	1

ST.GEORGE:

Duarte	11
Cotton	4
Campbell	3
Katholos	3
Beggs	2
Griffiths	2
Kay	2
Stone	2
Barton	1
McIntosh	1
Utjesenovic	1

PENALTIES:

6	J. Nyskohus
3	Byrne
2	Cotton
	O'Donnell
1	Christopoulos
	Caldwell
	Brusasco
	Ollerton
	Harding
	Utjesenovic
	Potter
	Katholos
	Hermiston
	Stevenson
	Pirie
	Vieri
	Boden
	Tymszyczyn

Youth star badly hurt

Youth Socceroo squad member Ian McKie is in good spirits as he recuperates in the Royal Adelaide Hospital from the latest of a series of freak accidents which this year have interrupted his career.

McKie, 18, suffered eye injuries on Friday when a car battery exploded while he was working in a Medindie car yard.

He has partial sight in his right eye, but it will be several days before specialists can determine if there will be permanent damage to his left eye.

Last month McKie had surgery on his right hand when he lost the top of a finger in an industrial accident.

He negotiated a release from his contract as a sheet-metal apprentice following the accident.

Earlier this year, on the eve of his Philips League debut, McKie suffered an eye injury at training when his neck medallion flew into his face.

Then, just before he was due to play for the Australian Youth team in a curtainraiser to the Australia versus Northern Ireland international in Sydney, he sustained a foot injury which required eight stitches.

"Ian was so keen to go to the training camp before that match that he kept his foot injury a secret from us all," his mother said.

His spirits had been bolstered by visits from his West Adelaide coach Billy Birch and former star player David Pillans, she added.

"So many people have rung, West Adelaide and Adelaide City supporters, people we don't know, to wish Ian well," Mrs. McKie said.

And to these wishes, we sincerely add "Soccer World's" too.

— A. Crisp

PREVIOUS FINALS

1977: Brisbane City v Marconi 1-1*
1978: Brisbane City v Adelaide City 2-1
1979: Adelaide City v St.George 3-2

* Won on penalties.

PHILIPS CUP

Brisbane City, Mt.Gravatt	Mt.Gravatt 1-0				
Brisbane Lions, Grange Thistle	Brisbane Lions 3-0	Lions 4-2			
Ipswich, Leichhardt	Leichhardt 1-0		Lions 2-1		
Sydney City, Sydney Croatia	Sydney City 7-1	Sydney City 2-1			
Blacktown, Sutherland	Blacktown 2-0				Marconi 1-0
St.George, Monaro	St.George 4-1	St.George 3-0			
Marconi, Melita	Marconi 3-0		Marconi 4-0		
Newcastle, Edgeworth	Newcastle 3-0	Marconi 3-1			
Canberra, Croatia Deakin	Canberra 7-2				
Rapid (Tas.), Preston	Preston 5-1	Canberra 3-2			
Sth.Melbourne, Frankston	Sth.Melbourne 5-2		Heidelberg 2-0		
Heidelberg, Essendon	Heidelberg 2-0	Heidelberg 2-1			Heidelberg 3-1(0-0)*
Footscray, Green Gully	Green Gully *(2-2)5-4				
Adelaide City, Enfield	Adelaide City 5-0	Adelaide City 3-1			
Beo.Woodville, Cumberland	Beo.Woodville 3-2		Adelaide City 1-0		
Spearwood(WA), West Adelaide	Spearwood 3-1	Spearwood 3-0			

* on penalites

HOW WRONG WE WERE

Just before the season, I made a bold forecast as to the final placings in the PSL.

Of course — I was proved wrong 13 times out of 14...

While in some cases I was just off, with West Adelaide and South Melbourne I was way off the mark.

These were my tips — and in brackets the correct, final placings:

1. Marconi (4)
2. Sydney City (1)
3. Adelaide City (5)
4. Newcastle (6)
5. West Adelaide (13)
6. Heidelberg (2)
7. Canberra (10)
8. Leichhardt (8)
9. Brisbane City (12)
10. South Melbourne (3)
11. St.George (14)
12. Brisbane Lions (7)
13. Footscray (9)
14. Blacktown (11)

Understandably, we were less incorrect in our forecast on July 31 about the relegation.

Then, with 8 rounds to go, we tipped this order at the bottom — with the final placings and points in brackets:

10. Brisbane City 20pt.(12-18pts)
11. Leichhardt 19pt.(8-23pts)
12. West Adelaide 17pt.(13-17pts)
13. Blacktown 17pt.(11-21pts)
14. St.George 15 pt.(14-14pts)

— a.d.

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PHILIPS LEAGUE FINAL TABLE 1980

	AGGREGATE P	W	D	L	F	A	±	P	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	P	AWAY P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 (1) SYDNEY CITY	26	16	5	5	51	26	+25	37	13	9	3	1	32	11	21	13	7	2	4	19	13	16
2 (2) HEIDELBERG	26	15	6	5	55	33	+22	36	13	9	3	1	35	14	21	13	6	3	4	20	19	15
3 (3) STH.MELBOURNE	26	15	5	6	42	21	+21	35	13	8	4	1	25	10	20	13	7	1	5	17	11	15
4 (4) MARCONI	26	14	6	6	53	32	+21	34	13	8	3	2	33	15	19	13	6	3	4	20	17	15
5 (6) ADELAIDE CITY	26	13	4	9	39	26	+13	30	13	7	3	3	20	10	17	13	6	1	6	19	16	13
6 (5) NEWCASTLE	26	12	6	8	32	31	+ 1	30	13	7	3	3	14	12	17	13	5	3	5	18	19	13
7 (7) BRISBANE LIONS	26	7	11	8	28	32	− 4	25	13	5	4	4	13	13	14	13	2	7	4	15	19	11
8 (8) LEICHHARDT	26	8	7	11	27	35	− 8	23	13	6	5	2	15	14	17	13	2	2	9	12	21	6
9 (9) FOOTSCRAY	26	7	9	10	32	41	− 9	23	13	6	1	6	20	21	13	13	1	8	4	12	20	10
10(11) CANBERRA	26	7	7	12	34	33	+1	21	13	3	4	6	17	19	10	13	4	3	6	17	14	11
11(10) BLACKTOWN	26	9	3	14	34	55	−21	21	13	7	2	4	25	16	16	13	2	1	10	9	39	5
12(12) BRISBANE CITY	26	4	10	11	29	36	− 7	18	13	4	4	5	18	13	12	13	—	6	7	11	23	6
13(13) WEST ADELAIDE	26	7	3	16	24	46	−22	17	13	6	2	5	12	15	14	13	1	1	11	12	31	3
14(14) ST.GEORGE	26	5	4	17	32	65	−33	14	13	3	2	8	17	32	8	13	2	2	9	15	33	6

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S.A.: ARNDALE KILKENNY and MARION SHOPPING CENTRE.

1

SYDNEY CITY 4(1)
ST. GEORGE 1(0)

Goals: 1-0 Boden (39m), 2-0 Boden (49m), 2-1 Griffiths (52m), 3-1 Trenter (60m), 4-1 Trenter (86m).

SYDNEY CITY: Clarke 4, Souness 4, Gomez 4, O'Connor 3, Bruce 3, Spanos 4, Stevenson 3, Watson 3, Boden 3, Trenter 3, Silva 3 (Borges 80m). **Coach:** E. Thomson.

ST. GEORGE: Fraser 3, Russell 3, McIntosh 3, Hadley 4, Terry 3, Stone 4, Kay 3, Barton (Beggs 80m), Katholos 4, Griffiths 3, Duarte 4. **Coach:** R. Blanco.

Referee: T. Davies (NSW); **crowd:** 3,540.

The spasmodically brilliant Boden and the embodiment of perpetual motion, Trenter, jointly said St. George's valedictory while ensuring their own PSL title.

For a disquietingly long time, the Slickers appeared to have trouble hitting the front against a composed, relaxed and attractive Saints.

Then, from a Stevenson freekick, Boden crashed home a brilliant header to steady the nerves of the champions-elect.

Soon after re-start the Slickers must have felt in the box-seat: Silva's soft-as-butter cross found the head of the unmarked Boden and the ball bounced in off the far post.

But St. George wouldn't give up. Kay sped off with a ball which bounced luckily for him, sent in a low cross and Griffiths volleyed home a thunderous shot — with his "deaf" right.

For some time the possibility of a shock draw was in the air: Sydney City were like so many Nervous Nellys while the Saints were fighting for a Viking funeral.

Then, characteristically, the St. George defence decided the issue and showed us all once again why this hapless team had to finish at the bottom of the heap.

In the 60th minute the St.George defenders twice failed to clear a simple ball which somehow got to Trenter; his shot literally trickled between McIntosh and Russell and the mesmerised Fraser into the net.

Elated and pacified, the Slickers looked like champions for the first time.

Souness, attacking from the rear with gusto, as though trying to wipe the memory of his shocker against Lujic recently, turned out to be the matador that finally killed the beast.

He burst through on the right with electrifying speed and played the ball into the middle.

Trenter, surrounded by a ring of defenders, somehow got a heel to it and the ball flashed into the net for the final goal.

— Andrew Dettre

2

HEIDELBERG 1(1)
BRISBANE LIONS 0(0)

Goal: 1-0 Campbell (15m).

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 4, **McMillan 5**, Provan 4, Bannon 4, Tansey 4, Rooney 4, **Selemidis 5, Campbell 5, Paton 5**, Cole 4, Bozikas 4. **Coach:** L. McKendry.

BRISBANE LIONS: Scanlon 5, Ontong 5, Bennett 4, **Hermiston 5**, Niven 4, Hogg 4, Burns 4, **Wilson 5**, McNaughton 4, Daunt 4 (Verwelj 46th), Millman 4. **Coach:** M. Carson.

Referee: C. Bambridge (Vic); **crowd:** 4,000.

Instead of the spine-tingling affair everyone was expecting from a side with a chance of winning the League, this match turned out to be a subdued clash which either side could have won.

Heidelberg opened the scoring after 15 minutes.

Pat Bannon put Andy Bozikas away down the middle, the winger squared the ball to the right, Gary Cole dummied cleverly and Jim Campbell ran onto it to hammer home from outside the penalty area.

The good start should have given United heart for a big scoring game but instead Lions picked up the threads and slowly took over.

Heidelberg's defence, without injured sweeper John Yzendoorn, looked vulnerable under pressure and Pat Bannon twice lost out on pace in the first half.

Steve Hogg left him dead on the right after 35 minutes but placed his shot wide despite having only the 'keeper to beat.

Then Mark McNaughton burst through on the stroke of halftime but blasted the ball over the bar.

Heidelberg steadied after the break and early in the second half Cole had a shot turned to corner after Jamie Paton had knocked down McMillan's right wing cross.

From the ensuing kick, Jamie Paton put the ball in the net but the goal was dissallowed for an infringement on Tony Scanlon by Gary Cole.

Graham Wilson put the Lions back in the picture setting up his forwards twice but the chances again went begging.

The midfielder fed McNaughton on the 77th minute mark but the New Zealander volleyed over the bar.

Then eight minutes later he exchanged a one-two with Johan Verweij for the latter to put his final shot wide of the far post.

Heidelberg ended the match strongly with Cole breaking through but having his shot blocked and Theo Selemidis smashing the loose ball against the crossbar.

But despite the win there was no rejoicing for the Sydney City result left no doubt on the championship issue.

— Jock Stephen

3

BRISBANE CITY 1(1)
CANBERRA CITY 1(0)

Goals: 1-0 Gaffney (10m), 1-1 Maclaren (72m).

BRISBANE CITY: Coe 4, Perry 3, Ratcliffe 3, Potter 3, Wilkinson 3, Gaffney 4, Pimblett 3, Hamilton 3, Conner 4, Kelso 4 (Low 77m), Palinkas 3. **Coach:** G. Potter.

CANBERRA CITY: Wilson 5, Moulis 3, (M. O'Shea 38), Stark 4, Milovanovic 3, R. O'Shea 3, J. O'Shea 3, Cole 4, Farrell 3, Maclaren 4, Brennan 3, Valeri 4. **Coach:** J. Brown.

Referee: T. Boskovic (NSW); **crowd:** 2,482; **caution:** Moulis.

Brisbane started brightly with Conner and Kelso causing problems to the Canberra back four and Moulis and R. O'Shea were under a lot of pressure.

After 10 minutes Brisbane went ahead through Gaffney though the goal had a real touch of music hall about it.

When it came through the little midfielder kicked the ground and the defence stopped in amazement as the ball bounced forward and then rebounded back to Gaffney who made no mistake at his second attempt.

Wilson showed the home crowd all of his class with some great saves from a cunning Pimblett placement and a Kelso thunderbolt.

Palinkas should have put Brisbane further ahead when he missed an open goal after being set up by Kelso's great run down the left.

Halftime came with the Brisbane boys holding on to a slender lead but after the break Canberra's midfielders took control of the game especially through the efforts of the strong running Cole and the clever Maclaren.

Suddenly the homesters' backline looked brittle especially as they were receiving little help from their men up front.

Maclaren caught them after a fine display with a cleverly taken individual goal and with 28 minutes still to go it was left to Brisbane City goalkeeper Coe to turn on the acrobatics.
One save from a 10-metre full-blooded drive from Valeri was most memorable.

A touch around the post from a John O'Shea header kept one point in Brisbane which they needed.

Canberra played well but only in patches.

Once again, star striker Seb Giampaolo was absent from the side.

Brisbane City escaped relegation by a single point and surely they'll use the off-season to rebuild and avoid another nerve-wrecking year like this.

— Jim Binnie

4

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0
NEWCASTLE 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumets 3, V. Bannon 4, Rogers 3, Davidson 4, Xanthopoulos 3, Wright 3, Evans 4, Buljevic 4, Lutton 3, Cummings 4, Blair 3 (Kakantonis 45m, 3). **Coach:** J. Margaritis.

NEWCASTLE: Dando 3, Reaney 4, Drinkwater 3, Bertogna 4, Heys 4, Senkalski 4, Jones 3, Curran 4, Tredinnick 3, McClelland 3, Burrows 3. **Coach:** A. Vest.

Referee: P. Rampley (NSW); **crowd:** 5,000; **cautions:** Jones, McClelland.

The game had few memorable moments.

It opened well enough as during the first 20 minutes some effort was made by South Melbourne to mount a midfield pressure.

Newcastle must have planned to keep Evans quiet by giving Curran the task of covering him throughout the match.

Both 'keepers did little during the game as indifferent and wild shooting gave them an easy time.

Cummings after 7 minutes, Evans after 14 and Davidson in the 27th were the only shots that South could muster during the first half.

Heys and Senkalski, with good backing from Bertogna, made Newcastle's front line look more active and dangerous.

McClelland had the goal at his mercy after 35 minutes, but shot wildly.

Just before halftime, Jones in a left wing run, flashed a good cross low in the front but the chance was lost.

Referee Rampley yellow carded McClelland for dissent just at the halftime whistle.

South were strangely slow in getting the ball going from defence, and this was in great contrast to the more agile work from Reaney, Bertogna and Heys who were better providers at speed to both wingers.

The efforts of Xanthopoulos proved fruitless in the advanced defensive cover and at times was not in clear touch with his inside men.

A corner after 58 minutes gave Drinkwater the opportunity but his header went wide.

Kakantonis, who had replaced Blair at halftime, should have scored when Bannon whipped the ball into the box at his feet, but he fumbled giving Dando time to dive on the ball to smother it.

Curran turned defence into attack in the best move of the game, finally giving Laumets his hardest task all day.

Newcastle finished the game better, and were perhaps unlucky to fail in the scoring department with only two minutes to go, when Senkalski topped the bar with Laumets at the other end of goal.

Newcastle appealed more in their non-stop moves, with Senkalski the 'Man of the Match'.

— Paul Galea

5

BLACKTOWN 1(1)
ADELAIDE CITY 2(0)

Goals: 1-0 Hunter (17m), 1-1 Barnes (74), 1-2 Northcote (80m).

BLACKTOWN: James 4, Pollard 4, (Rasmussen 86m), Turnbull 3, Selvage 3, Pointer 4, Hormazabal 4, (Ortega 59m), O'Donnell 3, Stowell 3, Wilkinson 3, Landon 4, Hunter 4. **Coach:** M. Jones.

ADELAIDE CITY: Marshall 4, Dods 4 (Mitchell 50m), Jones 3, Russell 4, B. Nyskohus 4, Barnes 4, Muniz 4, Northcote 4, Marocchi 3, J. Nyskohus, 3, Melta 3. **Coach:** R. Rasic.

Referee: J. Reeves; **crowd:** 2,248; **cautions:** Pollard, Turnbull, Marocchi, Dods.

Two players ended in hospital: Glen Dods of Adelaide City was taken from the field on a stretcher with a dislocated shoulder and Ricki Hormazabal left with a suspected broken shoulder.

In addition, four players — two from each side — received a yellow card yet, the standard of football was quite mediocre creating little excitement among the small crowd.

Aided by a breeze behind them, Blacktown City started quite well pinning their opponents in their territory for long spells.

Young Ian Hunter, playing his best football for the Demons, opened Blacktown's account with a superb solo effort on the right wing, rounding off one defender before letting fly with an unstoppable angled drive to the top far corner.

Adelaide slowly but surely started to take over which of course showed up best when they had the advantage of the breeze after the break.

Within five minutes of the restart, Glen Dods was carried to hospital on a stretcher and a few minutes later Hormazabal was helped from the field to also finish in hospital.

Soon after this, Adelaide went into top gear with Sergio Melta hitting the post with James well and truly beaten.

Brian Northcote, who was just about everywhere the action was, superbly engineered the equaliser with a through-pass for Colin Barnes to head home past James.

Adelaide continued to hold the upper-hand with Marocchi doing a top job in midfield but it was a reversal of players and play that brought about the winner.

Colin Barnes raced up on the right flank, eluded two defenders crossing the ball into the goalmouth for Northcote to leap high, beating James easily.

As the ball crossed the line, Steve Pollard went for it, helping it finish where it was meant to be.

— Charles Spiteri

6

LEICHHARDT 0
FOOTSCRAY 0

LEICHHARDT: Woodhouse 4, Skellern 3, McGinn 3, Watts 3, McAusland 2, Dempsey 3, Harding 3, Coyne 2 (Gray 80m), Pirie 2, **Morsello 5**, O'Connor 3. **Coach:** W. Wallace.

FOOTSCRAY: Boland 5, Hazabent 2, Kondarios 3, Jovanovic 3, Vasic 3, Ilioski 3, Picioane 2 (Petrou 67m), Rujevic 3, Lujic 3, Bellc 3, Kyriakouleas 2. **Coach:** J. Krlaris.

Referee: E. Venios (Vic.); **crowd:** 3,516; **cautions:** Hazabent, Jovanovic.

No spectator or reporter could have possibly recorded all the incredible blunders by strikers and midfielders, most of them inside the penalty area with only the goalie to beat.

Boland again showed that he was one of the in-form goalies in Australia apparently overlooked by Rudi Gutendorf; some of his incredible saves literally kept his team in the game.

Unlike many other goalies, Boland is prepared to attack the ball instead of being nailed to the line.

With nothing at stake both teams knocked the ball around taking chances they might not have done if anything had hinged on the outcome.

With some discipline and application Footscray could be one of the great teams in Australian soccer but their Middle European approach and their unwillingness to release the ball without beating **ANOTHER** man again stopped them from scoring.

Within the first 60 seconds Footscray had to scramble the ball off the line twice but they carried on without a care in the world and their quick breaking into attack soon found room in the Leichhardt defence which was without Peter Wilson — absent without explanation.

Pirie, O'Connor, Coyne and Morsello — the latter being the best man on the ground — with his efforts and creativity — managed to miss so many chances in both halves that probably they couldn't remember half of them.

Picioane and Vasic did the same for Footscray but in the blazing sun nobody seemed to worry and the only things missing to round off the picnic atmosphere were the barbecue fires.

O'Connor, in the 53rd minute, managed to head the ball on the post from three metres and, unbelievably, Vasic put the ball over the bar in the 75th minute when he could count every square in the Leichhardt net.

The final whistle must have brought some relief to all those who attended or participated in the assumption that they went to Leichhardt to watch or play PSL soccer.

— Roger Dewick

7

WEST ADELAIDE 0(0)
MARCONI 1(0)

Goal: 0-1 Sharne (52m).

WEST ADELAIDE: Crook 5, Tymczyszyn 5, Bozanic 3, McGachey 4, Topaz 4, Norris 3 (Carruthers 77m), Forde 4, **Manecas 6**, Kosmina 4, Honeyman 3, McGregor 4. **Coach:** B. Birch.

MARCONI: Maher 5, Brogan 3, Prskalo 4, Muir 4, Cant 3, **Henderson 5**, Byrne 4, Raskopoulos 4, Jankovics 3, Krncevic 3 (Mariani 46m, 3), Sharne 4. **Coach:** L. Scheinflug.

Referee: K. Allen (Canberra); **crowd:** 3,600.

Westad, proud winners of the championship just two short years ago, bowed out of the Philips League with this loss.

Certainly the Westad players left no stone of endeavour unturned on Sunday in trying to save their officials the embarrassment of compiling the extra paper work.

On their overall performance Westad deserved at least a draw, while on their smooth flowing first half form they were worthy of a win.

Westad coach Billy Birch had two options open at the start — to play for a draw and hope that Brisbane City crashed to Canberra, or to go for broke.

Happily for the crowd and the game Brich typically chose the latter tactic, but Westad did not reap the rewards their enterprising attacking policy deserved.

Near misses and goalmouth incidents at both ends kept the match in a state of bubbling excitement as Westad methodically mounted raids from the midfield, while Marconi relied upon speedy breakaways from Peter Sharne, Mark Jankovics and Eddie Krncevic.

Marconi had two scoring chances in the opening eight minutes as Westad's cavalier approach left Martyn Crook exposed, but Sharne over-ran a pass from Krncevic and then flashed the second attempt wide.

Westad grabbed control after the early reprieve to force five corners in the first 15 minutes.

With Peter Tymczyszyn repeatedly breaking clear with menacing overlaps, Manecas weaving his magic on the right flank and John Kosmina working tirelessly, Westad maintained the pressure on the Marconi goal.

Sharne, the young speedster whose amazing goal against Northern Ireland at Hindmarsh this year is still discussed, sank Westad's hopes seven minutes into the second half when he accepted a cross from Jankovics to slam an angled drive home from close range.

— Allan Crisp

PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE

NO FUNNY THINGS HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE TITLE...

Amazing thing, his soccer. Grown up men, business tycoons, industrialists, pensioners, process workers, casual drink waiters, clerks and all other sorts allow 90 minutes to decide their personal happiness for a while.

They make quiet vows to themselves: I'll buy that ring for my wife if we win the championship. Or: you're all invited to dinner if...It's always the if...

Iraq and Iran are killing each other, refineries are ablaze, the Security Council meets, two aircraft collide midair in Victoria, the Russians stand in Afghanistan and Fraser stand on his record — but it all pales into insignificance.

Will the Slickers win the title? That's the question, ladies and gentlemen, bugger Iran and Fraser. And for 90 minutes the world stands still; it's only 22 young men, some in blue, some in red, trotting and sprinting and strutting and limping to bring a bit of happiness to those who care.

The afternoon at Sydney Athletic Field unfolds...

3pm: *Sydney City in the PSL lead by 1 point, from Heidelberg and South Melbourne. If they all win — or all draw — or perhaps if war is declared, they are champions.*

3.06pm: *The first shot at goal: Trenter's 20-metre piledriver dies away in Fraser's arms.*

3.09pm: *Barton and Clarke collide, the ball runs free and young Kay lifts it over the empty goal from 20 metres but a rotten angle.*

3.12pm: *Gomez joins the attack: the lanky colored youth, looking more like a high hurdler, pokes at the ball in the goalmouth but it goes wide.*

3.15pm: *News from Melbourne: Heidelberg lead 1-0, South Melbourne still 0-0 — will Heidelberg win the title?*

3.19pm: *Boden off on the right but from a sharp angle shoots into the sidenet; a cross would have been more productive.*

3.20pm: *Duarte sweeps past Bruce, sends in a great cross but the defence scrambles the ball to safety.*

3.28pm: *Watson and Spanos miskick in the penalty box; Slickers coach Eddie Thomson on the bench covers his face, manager Andrew Lederer wipes his forehead.*

3.29pm: *Boden almost through but Russell saves to corner.*

3.39pm: *At last...Stevenson's curling freekick finds Boden and he literally crashes his header into the roof of the net. The Slickers in the lead — on the way to the title.*

3.43pm: *Boden solo but his shot is saved by Fraser.*

3.45pm: *Crisp Sydney City attack — but young Terry saves on the line.*

Halftime: *Heidelberg still 1-0, South Melbourne still 0-0. Will the Slickers hang on?*

4.04pm: *Silva dances off on the left, looks up and finds Boden unmolested in the middle with a delicate chip; Boden rises and rises some more to reach the ball and — still unchallenged — sends a soft header to the far post from where the ball slips into the corner. 2-0 — surely enough for the Slickers?*

4.07pm: *Kay finds a bouncing ball on the right, slams it in the middle and Griffiths meets it with a full right-foot volley — the ball bulges the net before Clarke even lands on the ground. 2-1 — an upset in the making?*

4.09pm: *Griffiths wriggles free, sends in an ideal cross — but Barton, quite unmarked, blasts his shot over the bar.*

News from Melbourne: Results unchanged. The 2-1 would do here...

4.15pm: *The St.George defence falters; two poor clearances and the ball just wouldn't go away, finally Trenter prods it goalwards and it slowly, peacefully trickles into the net...3-1.*

Melbourne reports: no change...

4.41pm: *Souness wants to make quite sure and bursts on the scene, sending in a low cross to Trenter; the Welsh Windmill has five defenders around him yet flicks the ball into the corner with his heel. 4-1.*

4.45pm: *Referee Tim Davies glances at his linesmen and acknowledges their nods: time's up. The Slickers bench is now all standing; president Frank Lowy has joined them from the VIP box. Then — the final whistle.*

Hugs, embraces, handshakes; the wounded coach Eddie Thomson is lifted on some willing shoulders, PSL manager Paul Kemp carries the championship shield on the field like a furniture removalist. Bedlam.

Somebody puts on a rock record; inarticulate half sentences, more inaudible congratulations.

The beaten, humiliated, relegated St.George players line up near the exit, sportingly prepared to applaud the champions off the field.

But they are not ready to come; the Slickers go across to the stand to greet their very small but very loyal band of supporters. More cheers, more hugs; the Saints, slightly sick of it all, march into their dressing room.

The Melbourne scores? What Melbourne scores? Who cares?

The Slickers are champions.

— Andrew Dettre

Our tips...

In our March 6 issue, on the eve of the PSL kick-off, we summed up the chances of the 14 teams.

This is what we said then:

Marconi: "...must start hot favorites to win the 1980 title, possibly by a comfortable margin." (A. Dettre.) Not even by an uncomfortable one...

Heidelberg: "It's a tall order for Heidelberg to repeat last year's performance of finishing runners-up." (Peter Desira.) The tall order was duly fulfilled...

Sydney City: "Tedious as it may seem, the 1980 PSL could once again develop into a gigantic battle between Sydney City and Marconi...I expect them to finish second." (A. Dettre.) The battle was four-ways and the Slickers moved to the top.

Brisbane City: "It would be hard to imagine City's present squad bettering the achievements of 1979..." (Jim Binnie.) And City did fall from grace...

Adelaide City: "Rasic says the team will finish in the Top Four. And they can do it and more..." (Allan Crisp.) Well, they missed out by one spot only.

Newcastle: "Given an injury-free season, coach Vest considers his team good enough for a semifinal position but the question is whether the team has sufficient strength in reserve to meet the sticky situations..." (Myles Hay.) They went very close though the season was far from injury-free.

West Adelaide: "Anyone prone to gambling seems assured of a winning bet if they wager on Westad finishing higher than their 1979 effort of 7th..." (Allan Crisp.) One good bet down the drain.

Leichhardt: "It would be a surprise to see them make the top four or six or slip towards the bottom; I expect 8th placing from them again." (A. Dettre.) Spot on.

Brisbane Lions: "Lions will have to finish higher than they did in 1979 as failure to do so will mean big changes, for this club will not accept second best for too long." (Jim Binnie.) They did finish slightly higher but changes are still possible.

Footscray: "Never finished above middle-table level in the three seasons of PSL and are unlikely to better that record this year." (Peter Desira.) Another pessimistic forecast come true.

St.George: "A bad season start could see the Saints repeat the 1979 hair-raising struggle; at best they'll finish 8th or 9th, at worst near the bottom." (A. Dettre.) The bottom it is.

Canberra: "On paperform, Canberra should improve on the 11th position achieved last year." (Peter Kunz.) They did: by one...

South Melbourne: "Will do a lot better than last season; a top half of the table position is well within the reach." (Peter Desira.) The 3rd place speaks for the forecast.

Blacktown: "Anything better than 14th would be a fine achievement; to finish above the relegation cut-off point would be sensational." (A. Dettre.)

Mark Trenter (left) and Mike Fraser tangle in last Sunday's match...

...at the end of which Sydney City Soccer Chairman Andrew Lederer proudly holds high the PSL shield.

PSL 1980 RESULTS

	Marconi	Heidelberg	Sydney City	Brisbane City	Adelaide City	Newcastle	West Adelaide	Leichhardt	Brisbane Lions	Footscray	St. George	Canberra	South Melbourne	Blacktown
Marconi	★	1-1	2-0	4-0	2-1	4-1	2-1	1-2	2-1	2-0	0-0	3-2	1-4	9-0
Heidelberg	3-3	★	0-0	3-1	0-0	4-0	4-2	5-1	1-0	3-2	4-2	2-0	1-2	5-1
Sydney City	2-1	1-1	★	2-1	2-1	2-0	7-0	4-2	1-1	2-2	4-1	0-2	2-1	3-0
Brisbane City	2-1	7-0	1-0	★	1-2	1-2	1-1	1-0	1-1	1-1	0-1	1-1	0-1	1-2
Adelaide City	0-1	1-0	1-0	0-0	★	1-3	1-0	2-0	0-0	4-1	6-1	1-1	0-1	3-2
Newcastle	0-1	3-1	0-3	1-1	3-1	★	2-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	2-1	0-4	1-0	1-0
West Adelaide	0-1	1-0	0-2	1-0	0-2	1-0	★	0-4	1-1	0-2	1-0	2-0	1-0	4-2
Leichhardt	2-2	0-5	2-2	2-1	2-1	1-0	2-0	✱	0-0	0-0	1-2	2-1	1-0	0-0
Brisbane Lions	0-0	1-2	2-0	1-0	1-2	1-0	2-1	4-2	✱	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-2	1-0
Footscray	0-4	0-2	1-2	1-1	1-3	2-1	0-3	1-0	3-1	✱	5-3	0-1	3-0	3-0
St. George	0-3	3-5	0-2	1-1	1-4	0-3	3-1	1-0	2-3	1-1	✱	1-5	0-3	4-1
Canberra	0-1	0-1	2-3	1-1	1-0	1-2	4-3	2-2	2-4	0-0	4-1	✱	0-0	1-1
South Melbourne	3-1	0-0	1-2	3-2	1-0	0-2	0-1	0-2	3-0	2-1	1-0	✱	5-0	
Blacktown	5-1	1-2	1-3	3-1	1-2	1-1	1-0	0-0	4-1	3-0	4-2	1-0	0-3	✱

CLUB MARCONI

Bosley Park, Fairfield.

Saturday, October 4 at 7.30pm:

LADIES NIGHT

Guest stars:

FOLKLORICO AUSTRALIA

Booking fee for visitors $2.

Main Auditorium — Dancing till 1am.

SAINTS FAILED TO SEE DANGER SIGNS

Having been involved with the club, at least emotionally, since its beginning, makes it doubly difficult to analyse the catastrophe of St.George in 1980.

When a stranger dies, one feels some sorrow; when somebody in the family passes away, it's a deep shock — especially if that demise was predictable and possibly curable.

In St.George's case, the writing has been on the wall for some years. Some claim the rot started in 1973 when Mike Johnson took over from Frank Arok, others establish the watershed as the departure of John Warren, the transfer of Attila Abonyi or the brief and far from successful regimes of Schaefer, Takac, Gelei and Blanco.

Oddly enough, the planning and then the building of the club's marvellous little stadium has contributed to the team's gradual decline.

Most of the club's attention, efforts and spare cash went into the stadium project.

But this meant a heavy downgrading — possibly subconsciously — of other essential areas, such as management, coaching, promotions, publicity — and the team...

If it's true to say that most PSL clubs are run by a single strongman, in St. George's case you could feel the heavy hand of autocracy.

So was, you could argue, Real Madrid run under Santiago Bernabeu and Manchester United under the Edwards family. True.

But these spent 90 percent of their waking hours on their beloved club — instead of treating it as an occasional hobby.

It remains to be seen whether the Saints will be re-elected or move down into the State League.

If they get reprieved, surely they must realise that they cannot possibly continue as before but have to reorganise the club from top to bottom.

If, on the other hand, they are relegated, they are likely to face extinction within a few years, more or less following the sad examples of Sydney Austral, Prague and other former ethnic giants.

And that, really, would be a terrible tragedy, too stiff a price to extract even for the club's well documented follies and mistakes.

After all, St.George not only have a great past and a splendid stadium but have the potential to rise again — provided they are not asked to fight their way back through the labyrinths of State League and readmission application channels.

It's certain that Frank Arok will return in December and will be given a "free hand" to rebuild the club, the administration and the team.

He did this once, in 1969 though he started from a higher plateau and had 11 years more energy, enthusiasm — and 11 years younger helpers...

Still, of all the people either known to the club or available at a manageable price, Arok is probably the only one who could do the trick again.

And he certainly has a gigantic task to accomplish.

Following the near-disaster of 1979 when a single goal saved the Saints from relegation, coach Raul Blanco rushed into the most devastating selling and buying spree in the club's history: he dismissed 12 and signed another 12 new players.

The blood-letting was too much; the new transfusion caused clots and the result was the weakest team in the club's history since 1957.

Right from the start the danger signs were apparent: the Saints were having problems from Round 5 and by Round 11 hit rock-bottom, escaping from last position only for one week, in Round 15 and then eventually falling away from the field.

The outwardly confident Blanco, probably in a state of shock, kept promising a revival but this never came.

Paul Kay

Two major rescue attempts were mounted by the club. The first was the signing of three experienced players, Stone, Campbell and Russell about halfway through and then the dramatic arrival of Frank Arok as a trouble-shooter.

But neither attempt produced an improvement as the team was simply not good enough; it lacked modern organisation, composure, tactical maturity, concept, toughness — and class.

While the "crime" was undoubtedly committed by a well meaning Blanco, the responsibility belonged to the club's management which never seemed to exercise any normal control over their coach.

In the end came the usual "solution": Blanco left — but the problems stay...

Despite the team's horror run, the squad has quite a few players who could be more than useful next season — provided they will have alongside at least two or three outstanding newcomers with the ability to lead and organise play.

Goalkeeper Mike Fraser probably heads the list; it was sad to see this earnest, talented youngster in match after match under siege, unprotected by a horribly brittle, naive defence.

Young midfielder Peter Katholos, the diminutive Paul Kay, the clever Billy Griffith and strikers Denis Duarte and Roy Cotton are others who could have performed much better in a stronger team.

The "Rescue Trio" of Russell, Campbell and Stone would be worth retaining too — and this already lists an amazing nine players on the credit side.

But the problem is with the defence which has conceded a stunning 65 goals and which needs a total demolition and rebuild.

Out of charity, I will refrain from passing adverse comment on several players, many of whom never justified Blanco's extraordinary faith in them.

Some, clearly, are over the hill while quite a few others have been and will be strictly of State League standard.

Perhaps the Saints have found out at long last that it's not possible to create a top team on the cheap; now the next step is to decide whether it's worth pouring big money into new players for a dubious return.

Soccer, with very few honorable exceptions, is not a profitable enterprise in most parts of the world but a pleasant, at times, lunatic luxury where balance sheets and ordinary accounting principles have little relevance.

This is what the Saints must bear in mind before lodging their re-admission application for the PSL.

If they are serious about their re-organisational plan, they deserve another chance; if it's going to be business-as-usual in 1981 again, they are better off quietly lying down now and opting out of the rat-race.

— A. Dettre

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF THE PSL

PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE AUSTRALIA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

PHILIPS CUP FINAL

Heidelberg v Marconi
Olympic Park, Melbourne, 7.30pm

NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

PHILIPS LEAGUE TOP FOUR

Sydney City v Heidelberg
Sydney Athletic Field, 3pm

South Melbourne v Marconi
Middle Park, 3pm

REVIEW OF PSL TEAMS

Plucky Blacktown

"For valor, beyond the call of duty" — this should be the plaque Blacktown arrange for their coach and team after the 1980 season.

Frankly, I wouldn't have thought it possible, even likely that the PSL's newcomers could avoid an immediate return to the State League.

Clearly the club wasn't too confident, either, as they delayed the start of a construction scheme involving a new grandstand until now.

To a very large extent, credit for this achievement must go to the coach, Mick Jones.

Right from the very start he kept insisting that Blacktown wouldn't go down — and for a long time this looked like a bravado.

Jones wasn't given the funds to build a super-team or even one which seemed adequate for the PSL.

So he had to use the most modest ingredients to cook a palatable dish — and it worked.

Quite a few cast-offs landed at Blacktown — and probably all justified Jones' decision.

There was former St.George Socceroo George Harris, the twice retired Bruce Stowell, the much travelled Steve Pollard, the eternal Marconi sub Stuart Selvage, ex-Leichhardt defender Warren Turnbull, the ex-this and ex-that Jimmy Izatt and then, in an exchange deal, another Leichhardt man, Brian O'Donnell.

To be brutally candid, all this certainly didn't appear to form the base of a solid, virile team.

But Jones managed to keep a good balance with the addition of others.

the defensive backbone of a team under attack.

On the whole, there were two Blacktowns in existence: one for home consumption and one that played away.

While the team's home record was most creditable, they proved to be pretty poor travellers, picking up a mere 5 points from a possible 26.

Quite a few heavy defeats had to be suffered in these games, none more traumatic than a 0-9 against Marconi in the second round.

But the 1-5 against Heidelberg, 0-5 to South Melbourne and 1-4 to St.George were also big enough to fill the fans with fear.

And yet, almost always, Blacktown shrugged off these calamities and bounced back without any after-effects.

Perhaps the crowning glory of the team came with a smashing 5-1 win over Marconi, the 1979 champions.

That great win could have been the turning point for the team, the game which gave the players enough heart to carry on the successful fight against relegation.

So Blacktown stay in the PSL — but what will the future bring?

Most club officials are optimistic enough to predict that things will improve even further.

They will engage a promotions-marketing man to "sell" the club in the vast district and probably begin constructing a proper grandstand at their modest Gabbie Stadium, right next to the clubhouse.

Whoever will be in charge of the team will probably realise that some reinforcements will be needed for the 1981 campaign.

Some of the veterans will slow down another yard or two and may have to be replaced.

It would be unwise to expect that the same squad could produce yet another superlative effort next season; much of what was accomplished was helped by a newcomers' usual enthusiasm and a large dosage of adrenalin.

These commodities tend to wear off and must be substituted by more durable components, such as one or two new, outstanding players.

The crowd response in 1980 to Blacktown's sudden PSL emergence was pleasing but only next year will tell how much of it was due to its novelty appeal.

RASIC TO SYDNEY

Rale Rasic

Adelaide City coach Rale Rasic will definitely be coaching in Sydney next season, but he is still tight-lipped about naming the club he will join.

He said after the match with Blacktown, that he would move from Adelaide to Sydney soon after Christmas, to take a job with a "progressive PSL club".

He said personal matters, such as his children's schooling and tidying a few other things would prevent him from coming to Sydney any earlier.

Rasic, who is quite proud of what he has achieved in Adelaide, added: "While I'm still coach of Adelaide City it is not good policy to start naming other clubs.

"I shall do that as soon as my ties with City are severed."

Ian Hunter

Young Ian Hunter — a free transfer bargain from Nepean — has developed further during the season and looks more and more like a future Socceroo.

Indeed, quite a few clubs would be prepared to open their chequebooks if Hunter were available.

Two young strikers, Alan Fisher and Paul Wilkinson showed talent but neither really managed to cause too much excitement.

Blacktown's two regular Chileans, Carlos Ortega and Ricardo Hormazabal, provided the much needed skill and polish for a basically combative team.

But possibly the greatest successes were young goalie Bruce James, a local product and ex-Manly stopper Cliff Pointer.

Time and again they were

FIRST DIVISION

— By Charles Spiteri

Wollongong, certainly one of the most consistent teams, are in the final after a superb win over Polonia but they won't know whom they play until Wednesday, past our deadline.

Champions Marconi rose to the occasion producing their best form of the season but even this was not enough against the in-form St. George who held them well in a scoreless game, after extra time.

It was a top game of hard, exciting football, with both sides hitting the woodwork and missing chances but neither able to score the winner.

Both will field top teams in Wednesday night's replay which will take place at Barton Stadium.

Both team managers, Fred Masonwells of Marconi and Ken Deret of St.George are very hopeful their team will face Wollongong in the final on Monday — a public holiday.

Mike Johnson, Wollongong's coach is hopeful of winning this final irrespective of who the opponents will be.

After beating Polonia, Johnson said: "We have the best team in the competition this season and hope to prove it by winning the final.

"Our side had the best defence and on goal difference only St.George has a better record.

"We are prepared and ready to take on the winner and win the final to round off a very good season," he added.

Watching from the sideline, Mike Johnson devised the plan how to beat his opponents' square defence and he put the plan to the players as soon as they were in the dressing room.

Soon after the resumption, Roberto Giraldi beat the defence, and with Glen Fontana playing to instructions he received a perfect pass to put Wollongong in front.

Within minutes, the same pair repeated the trick and Fontana scored again but this time the goal was disallowed.

But with Polonia persisting with the same game, they had to fall for it again; this time Giraldi smashed the ball into the net following a corner by Ron Sattin.

Again towards the end, the defence was beaten, this time Jirsa finishing off from only two yards after racing through behind the defence.

For Jirsa, who was top scorer last season, but was out with injury for 14 weeks this year, it was his first goal this year.

Making his debut in first grade for Wollongong was third grade goalkeeper Steve Greathead, 17, adapting himself well.

Polonia: Greenfield, Harris, Svigelj, R. Budini, Hardy, Sooke (Maitre), Illingworth (O'Donovan), McRory, Wisniewski, Strzelecki, A. Budini. **Coach:** S. Woziczka.
Wollongong: Greathead, Montecchi, Talevski, Campbell, R. Sattin, H. Sattin, Petkovski, Bingham, Giraldi, Fontana, Jirsa. **Coach:** M. Johnson.
Goals: Strzelecki; Fontana, Talevski, Giraldi, Jirsa.

POLONIA v WOLLONGONG 1-4

Wollongong, the most disappointing and perhaps unluckiest team in the competition after losing the promotion race to Polonia, got their revenge in the semifinals when they wallopped their rivals to the tune of 4-1.

Credit must go to the players who rose to the occasion, but the brain behind the victory was their coach Mike Johnson who, at the break, explained how to exploit Polonia's offside trap.

The game kicked off in sensational manner when almost straight from the kick-off, after 35 seconds to be exact, Zbigniew Strzelecki put Polonia in front with a superb goal.

It gave Polonia the advantage and the motivation they needed to make quite a fistful of this match which they did for the first 20 minutes until Kris Talevski, the fullback, came up to head in a long throw-in.

This was the score at half-time.

MARCONI v ST. GEORGE 0-0

Champions Marconi who faltered to two defeats in their last two matches came back with a vengeance against St.George by producing their best football, yet failed to turn their advantage into goals.

Despite the lack of goals, both sides produced some exciting stuff but failed badly when it came to finishing.

In the first half, Marconi hit the woodwork twice through David Polzot and John Kelly.

St.George fielded four third graders in the side, and battled hard for a break particularly in the second half but it was to no avail.

Marconi: Veneri, Swain, Masonwells, Genovic, Colderan, Dulisse, Tomasich, Stark, Colusso, Morson (Polzot), Scheinflug (Kelly). **Coach:** L. Nesti.
St. George: Wotton, Skeen, Agostino (Croot), Holmik, Smith, Beadow, Johnson, Battisti (McConnachie), Dredge, Tuntevski, Fraser. **Coach:** T. Zuckerman.

NSW STATE LEAGUE

Melita could march into Grand Final

— By Paul James —

The question being asked by most observers of the State League now is, can Olympic recover from the disappointment of losing the premiership title to be a threat in the top four series?

In past weeks they have been in a slump, losing to Melita and drawing last week with Bankstown.

And to top it off they have lost Jim Adam who resigned from the coaching position.

While Olympic is going through a bad patch, the other three top-four contenders are looking as strong as ever.

Premiers Melita won the title by six points and while they didn't score as many goals as Olympic, they certainly had a sounder defence.

Melita will face Olympic in the major semifinal, from which the winner will progress straight into the Grand Final.

Atti Abonyi, Melita

Olympic's loss of Housseini who was sent off two weeks ago will be a severe blow for this match.

The Iranian schemer proved to be one of the best midfielders in the competition and was instrumental in many of Olympic's wins.

Without him they will find the going very tough against the well drilled Melita midfield where John Stoddart has proved outstanding this year.

But it will be the defences which could decide this match.

Melita's has a solidness and precision about it which the youthfulness of Olympic's just can't match.

McDonald and Darvill have gone through a lot together, both at Croatia and now Melita and both are experienced defenders, while Cabon and Mikas have matured rapidly this year.

Olympic were severely hampered for a long time this year by the loss of Ken Wilson as he was a great steadying influence on the team.

While Ankudinoff, Rowden and Palmer have the traits of excellent attacking-defenders, they have been prone to be caught out and this has proven costly several times.

Up front Olympic has had the better record, but injury and suspension have taken their toll in recent weeks.

It is unlikely that a repeat of the 3-1 Melita win will occur, but a Melita win is still on the cards.

SEMIFINAL:

CANTERBURY v AUBURN 2-2(1-1) (1-1)

Both sides played pretty much to their usual formula, with Auburn adopting their 'European' game, holding the ball at the back, while Canterbury opted for the more direct approach.

The end result was an absorbing encounter which provided the fans with enough action and four cleverly crafted goals.

Auburn started by taking the game to Canterbury and quickly looked like controlling the match.

After seven minutes McCrannor could have taken the lead but he tumbled as he shot and the ball whisked wide.

McPherson was under a steady stream of pressure and didn't look too confident when handling the ball.

Auburn's slow, patient build-ups often were closed down by the eager Canterbury players and the number of back-passes was one small blight on the game.

With Auburn dominating it was 'out of the blue' that Canterbury scored.

Greg Brown played the ball down the right, Williams gave chase and shrugged off his marker before slipping the ball under Gisbourne in the 37th minute.

This changed the game, with Auburn relying more on defence and Canterbury elated by their lead.

Thamnides and Byles were combining well up front and although Thamnides came in for some rough treatment the Canterbury forward line was looking good.

Again, slightly against the run of play, Auburn scored.

Bertram crossed, McDonald helped it on to McCrannor whose shot cannoned back from the crossbar to Martinez who poked the ball home.

The second half was a thrust-and-parry affair with neither side ready to open up.

In the last 10 minutes of normal time Canterbury strung the best moves together and looked a good bet to take extra time.

Their second goal came only four minutes into the extra period when Basterfield fired a hard, low freekick into the six yard box and Williams deflected it past Gisbourne.

With Canterbury slowing the game down and the match looking safely in their grasp McDonald jinked his way down the left and smashed in a 10-metre drive for the equaliser.

CANTERBURY: McPherson 3, Kable 3, G. Brown 4, Penman 4, Barboutis 4, Williams 5, Hall 4, Basterfield 4, R. Brown 3, Thamnides 4, Byles 4.

AUBURN: Gisbourne 3, McCoy 4, Fairclough 4, Dobson 4, McMillan 4, McDonald 4, Quigley 3 (Ross 83m), McCulloch 4, McCrannor 4, Martinez 4 (Gibson 93m), Bertram 4.

Goals: 1-0 Williams (37m), 1-1 Martinez (43m), 2-1 Williams (94m), 2-2 McDonald (117m).
Referee: B. Wilkinson; **crowd:** 2,300; **cautions:** McCoy, Martinez.

— A. Henderson

CURRAN SPECIAL

Members of the 1974 Australian World Cup team have been invited to play in the Col Curran testimonial match at Newcastle's International Sports Centre on Sunday, October 12.

For the 33-year-old former Socceroo, the match is a fitting tribute for his contribution to soccer.

Curran, who last represented Australia against New Zealand last year, has played 22 times for his country and has played against 19 member countries of FIFA.

During his first class career, he has worn the strips of Maitland, Adamstown Rosebuds, Manchester United, Marconi, Western Suburbs, and Newcastle KB United.

Recently a committee was formed in Newcastle to arrange a day to pay tribute to Newcastles 'favorite soccer son.'

Invitations have been sent to former Socceroo teammates Ray Baartz, Jim Fraser, Jack Reilly, Doug Utjesenovic, Peter Wilson, Manfred Schaefer, Harry Williams, Peter Stone, John Warren, Ernie Campbell, John Watkiss, Atti Abonyi, Col Bennett, Steve Perry, Ray Richards, and team-mates from other clubs Clive Eaton, Dave Harding, Trevor Smyth and John Doyle.

Rale Rasic has been invited to be manager of the select side in the match against Curran's team, Newcastle KB United.

At Currans request, 10 per cent of all proceeds of the day will go to the Glendale Special School.

Curran has no intention of retiring from the game and will play with Newcastle United next year.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

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Ku-ring-gai v Parramatta.....Potts Park, 2.30pm

STATE LEAGUE SEMIFINALS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Coca-Cola League semifinals

Sydney Sportsground

Gr.1: Melita v Olympic.....3pm
Gr.2: Olympic v Ku-ring-gai.....1.10pm
Gr.3: Auburn v Sutherland.....11.30am

Sunday, October 12

Coca-Cola Final

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WORLD NEWS...WORLD NEWS...

Di Stefano "sacked" by Mario Kempes

Pele or no Pele, many soccer connoisseurs still argue that the greatest post-war player was Argentinian-born Alfredo Di Stefano, Real Madrid's "blond arrow" of the 1950s and very early 1960s.

The brilliant all-rounder, the aristocratically elegant and effective Alfredo, however, just can't get to the top as a coach.

Since his retirement he has tried his luck with quite a few clubs in Spain and Argentina; won a title with Valencia and River Plate but, on the whole, has had more failures than successes.

On a few occasions he had to suffer the ignominy of being actually sacked.

Recently he was dismissed by Valencia with whom, in 1971, he won the Spanish title.

And the cause of his downfall was another Argentinian, 1978 World Cup star Mario Kempes.

Although Valencia finished 5th last season and won the European Cupwinners' Cup, Di Stefano was fired. For this he blames star Mario Kempes.

"Kempes is a difficult fellow," he said recently.

"Actually, there are two Kempes. In home matches he plays like a superstar, scoring stunning goals but in away matches he is hardly noticed.

"I warned him many times about this. I also asked him to cut back his smoking and alcohol consumption a bit. But it didn't work."

Kempes, of course, has a different story to tell.

"It's an untenable situation when the coach keeps running to the management with all sorts of tales about his players.

"So I also went to them and told them my version.

"They believed me and not him."

Obviously...

TOUR A LA TONGA...

Last week the "Fiji Sun" reported this charming mishap';

"Nukualofa. — The national second division soccer team flew into the Kingdom of Tonga yesterday and met immediate problems.

"• The game they were supposed to play the same afternoon against Tonga B hadn't been organised.

"• The expected Test against the Tongan national team was not on.

"• No lunches for them had been organised.

"• The accommodation organised was a hall lying in shambles and without any bedding.

"Only one person, Ron Kubik, was at the airport to meet the team..."

Mario Kempes

POOR LITTLE RICH BERND

"I'd rather stay in Germany than become rich in America but I may have no option" — so says FC Koln's young (20) star, Bernd Schuster.

The major discovery of this year's European Championships, the brilliant defender is considering an offer from the New York Cosmos.

Although the NASL season is over, Cosmos would like to sign Schuster and take him on their world tour, replacing the departed Beckenbauer.

However, Bayern Munchen are also interested and the youngster as well as his even younger wife, Gaby, would really prefer to stay in Germany.

"FC Koln will ask for $2,500,000 for my husband and I think he's worth that much and more," Gaby said modestly.

"But Bayern had better hurry. The Cosmos people will arrive this week to negotiate and if there's no other offer, Bernd and I will go to New York."

National team manager Jupp Derwall, of course, would be happier if Schuster went to Bayern and remained available for his national team.

However, with amazing prudence and self-control neither Derwall nor any official of the Association (DFB) want to influence Schuster's decision.

"It's up to him," said Derwall this week.

"How can I tell a man of 20 not to make a fortune in New York if he has the chance?" How, indeed.

Bernd Schuster — forced to get rich...

OVERSEAS BRIEFS

• In an international youth tournament for the "Trofeo Yugoslavia," Hungary won the final beating England 2-1. The favored Soviet team finished only 8th.

□ □ □

• New arrangements for the final of the Intercontinental Cup between Nottingham and Nacional of Uruguay: only one match will be played, on February 4 — in Tokyo.

□ □ □

• The youngest player ever to appear for an English League club: Eamonn Collins, 14, for Blackpool against Kilmarnock in the Anglo-Scottish Cup.

□ □ □

• Willie Johnstone, the notorious Scottish winger who caused the dope sensation in the 1978 World Cup finals, has been sent off for the 13th time in his career. At present he plays for Glasgow Rangers.

□ □ □

• In a World Cup elimination match in Oslo, Norway held the more favored Rumania to a 1-1 draw.

□ □ □

• At least 26 West Ham fans were arrested in Madrid 10 days ago when their team played and lost 3-1 to Castilla in a UEFA Cup match. One English fan was killed by a bus outside the stadium. West Ham manager John Lyall promised an investigation into the disturbances.

□ □ □

• Helmut Senekowitsch, Atletico Bilbao's Austrian manager, has been sacked...The last straw was his team's 7-1 defeat against Real Madrid.

□ □ □

• In a friendly match in Mendoza, Argentina and Chile played a 2-2 draw — a stunning surprise. Valencia and Diez scored for the home team and Vargas and Castec for Chile.

□ □ □

• The USSR will play Argentina in a friendly international on December 10 at the seaside resort of Mar del Plata.

□ □ □

• Johan Neeskens may have to leave Cosmos: the club fined him heavily for failing to travel with the team to Los Angeles for the recent play-off match against Aztec.

□ □ □

• In a World Cup elimination match in Belgrade, Yugoslavia beat Denmark 2-1.

□ □ □

• Bayern Munchen have grabbed the lead in the German Bundesliga after beating their closest rivals, Hamburg 2-1.

□ □ □

• West Ham have been forced to play their UEFA Cup match against the Spanish Castilla behind closed doors this week because of the behaviour of their fans in Madrid two weeks ago.

□ □ □

• Liverpool's Terry McDermott, England's "Player of the Year," wants to play in Germany next season.

□ □ □

• Karl Zischek, brilliant right winger of the great Austrian team ("Wundermannschaft") of the 1930s, celebrated his 70th birthday recently in Vienna.

□ □ □

• Pele, 40, scored a brilliant goal in Beckenbauer's farewell match in New York; 70,000 fans turned up in the Giants Stadium.

□ □ □

• Former West German manager Helmut Schoen celebrated his 65th birthday last week.

□ □ □

• Willy Kreuz, VOEST Linz's Austrian international, had to undergo a tendon operation and will be out of action for some time.

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